[President.]

he brought to bear in the administration of his great country his unrivalled experience and his great capacity for the solution of manifold problems that confronted him are matters for future historians to record with gratitude and with admiration. He was a pioneer in primary education, a pioneer in the library movement, a pioneer in social reform and rural reconstruction, he was a pioneer in the manifestation of vivid responsibility to the lowliest among his people regarding himself as their trustee and guardian of their welfare. May he rest in peace.

As for His Holiness—Pope Pius XI—I first met him when he was at Milan and thereafter I met him when he was in the Vatican. It has been stated to-day that it was my privilege to accompany His Highness during the interview which His Holiness the Pope gave to the Sovereign of this country, an interview during which he displayed a varied acquaintance with the problems and the conditions of Travancore, an interview which proved how vivid and continued was his interest in, and knowledge of, the State and of all that pertained to it. He was a very great, very brave, and very religious man. As a diplomatist he was unrivalled. The concordat between Italy and the Vatican was his work and it renewed the relationship, from the secular point of view, between Italy and the See of Rome, which was interrupted for many a long and wearisome years. It was he again, who against tremendous opposition, voiced the feelings of humanity when great turmoils permeated Europe. His inauguration of the Catholic Action Group was the result of both enlightened religion and great statesmanship.

It may not be known to many that one of his first reputations—he had many reputations—was that of a mountaineer. His Holiness the Pope's first book was his account of his mountaineering adventures in Europe. He was an authority on mountaineering. Next, he was one of the greatest authorities on Christian literature. After having acquired the reputation of a mountaineer, of a scholar, of a diplomatist, he acquired the reputation of an administrator as he was sent to Polland during the troublesome days of the Bolshevik invasion of Polland, and conducted his duties with conspicuous success.

It is right, as was pointed out, to put on record that his relationship with Travancore has been intimate in its friendly sympathy and was typical of true Catholicism. Let us signify our assent in the usual manner.

(The resolutions were passed *nem. con.* the whole House rising.)

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the situation created among the people of Kalkulam and Vilavankod taluks regarding the scarcity of water for drinking and agricultural purposes. Sir, the subject of to-day's motion has been brought to the notice of Government on more than one occasion. Sir, in the past, Government was concentrating on the irrigation

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question and this fact is borne out by Government proceedings and letters from the British Resident and some former Dewans of the State. During those days also real help was needed in South Travancore. Then, our eminent Chief Engineer, Mr. Horsely, whose health was sacrificed for Travancore did all he could to relieve the distress of the people.

The whole fact I shall put in two or three sentences. There is scarcity of water for drinking and for agricultural purposes. If any one of you would accompany me and see the plight of the people in South Travancore, excepting the area where it has been irrigated by the Kodayar project, I am sure, you would feel pity for the suffering agriculturists. There is no water to drink. At Kalikavila market, water is purchased at two chuckrams per *kudam*; at Marthandam the price is $1\frac{3}{4}$ chs. per *kudam* and also at Karingal. The Director of Public Health or anybody can impress Government with the seriousness of the situation. The people find it absolutely impossible to cultivate their lands. They do not cultivate anything. There is no paddy; there is no tapioca; there is no cocoanut. Sir, South Travancore is not an industrial area. They want their bare needs satisfied. They want to eat and drink. They do not ask for honey; they do not ask for toddy or alcohol; They ask for pure water from their Sovereign. Further, lands have been sold for arrears of tax and now in several areas Government themselves have become proprietors by taking the land. I say there is no political organisation within this area. It is unemployment, starvation and poverty that face these illiterate people. If the Government do not come to their rescue their condition will be most miserable.

Sir, recently the Minor Irrigation Regulation has been amended. The Minor Irrigation Committee published a report and Government have made an allotment of Rs. 10,000 for these taluks, namely, half of Vilavankod, whole of Neyyattinkara and half of Nedumangad. Unfortunately, not more than Rs. 2,000 has been spent during the course of the year. We have been asking the Chief Engineer in every meeting of this Assembly to look into the needs of the people of South Travancore. That unfortunate gentleman has the willingness to do something. In fact he has done. Like Mr. Horsely I had witnessed him walking three miles in Sun, in these parts when I asked him, he told me "No, Mr. Kesava Pillai, I must see the place myself." But, Sir, his subordinates, it is shame to say, have completely failed to do their duty. There is no Engineer who is in charge of the Kodayar project. This project is a capital scheme. There ought to have been suggestions for further equipment from the Engineer concerned. We public have no duty. I would request the Chief Engineer to hold an examination for the subordinates. Even if they be in service they, including the Assistant Engineers, should be asked to pass the examination in the first class. We will then get the right men in the proper place. Kodayar and Perinjani are the two schemes originally proposed. As a member of the Irrigation Committee I placed these facts before the committee. Fortunately, the Dewan was kind enough to order a committee full of non-officials with an official President. Unfortunately,

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that official President is not finding convenience to give his attention to it. The amount allotted for restoration of the tanks is such that it is not possible to restore them in the next hundred years. I would strongly recommend to Government that they would convert the paddy fields of Nanjinad into garden lands so that the people may not pay taxes for paddy lands that no longer yielded paddy. In some taluks we find that the foolish ryots pay tax for paddy cultivation after having cultivated tapioca in the fields. While the tax per acre for ordinary tapioca land will only be four annas; the poor ryot is now paying Rs.10 because the land is classed as paddy land although there is no water to cultivate paddy. The intensity of feeling on the part of the ryots can very well be imagined, Sir.

Sir, in the place of the Tank Restoration Scheme, I would suggest diversion of the Kodayar water for the use of the people of Kalkulam and Vilavankod taluks. I submit, Sir, that the people of these taluks have the primary right for the Kodayar water ; the other taluks of the Division have only a secondary right, although my friend from Nanjanad including Mr. Sivathanu Pillai—strongly oppose my suggestion that Vilavankod should get some water.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Question ;

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : To supplement the irrigation facility in Nanjinad, what I would suggest is the construction of the Perunjani Reservoir. We want the Teekode extension to irrigate the lands of the Kunnatur Nattalam and other pakuthies. A perusal of the revenue records of the last twenty years would convince the Land Revenue Commissioner that these lands have been requiring remission of tax all these years.

Sir, having put forth my case in my own way, I may perhaps mention that the people of my constituency recently met me in a body and asked me to resign my seat in this House and join the State Congress ; because, they said, "Although you represent us in the Assembly you are not able to look to our needs." I told them "this time I shall place all the facts before the Government; and if they refuse to do something for us, I shall immediately resign and go to some corner of the country and hide myself"; because, I shall not join the State Congress. Therefore, Sir, in the interests of my personal safety, I would request you to sanction immediately Rs.30,000 so that I may satisfy my people. They are prepared to surrender free all land necessary. They are also prepared to dig the smaller channels themselves. The whole work would be completed in three months. There is no necessity for any dam since we have a high level ridge at Triparappu. Sir, as I said yesterday, if we have one pot, we would put just some little rice and cook it ; if we have ten pots, naturally, we can cook more rice. That is all what we laymen can say. It is for expert engineers to put their heads together, to study the old records and to suggest a suitable scheme. There are several reservoirs, Perunjani,..... ....etc,

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So much about water for irrigation purposes. Coming to our need for drinking water, due to want of water and starvation, we are having attacks of cholera and small-pox year after year. Last year, there was a provision of Rs. 5,000, in the Budget, for the sinking of wells and a Section Officer investigated the question and submitted a report. He wanted Rs. 2 lakhs. Sir, if we had been given at least the Rs. 5000 we would have engaged lorries and distributed water to the suffering people. I would appeal to the Government to pass immediate orders for the sinking of tube-wells or for some other means of supplying good drinking water. Sir, it is a bare necessity. Here again, there is no political organisation it is the case of a representative of the people requesting the Government to relieve thousands of suffering people from their distress, I may perhaps mention, Sir, that the people of my constituency are ever ready to wait upon His Highness the Maharaja to pray for the redress of their grievances.

In regard to the question of remission, yesterday, while we were dealing with the question of karivu and tharisu remission, and the amendment of the remission rules, the Land Revenue Commissioner replied that the question was under consideration. I would earnestly request him immediately to call for a list of tharisu lands in the Vilavankod and Kalkulam taluks, lands which were lying fallow during the Kumbhom crop of 1114 as well as the Kanni crop of 1114. Equitably and morally, though not legally, the Government are under an obligation to remit the whole amount of tax so far as rain-fed lands are concerned. Our rains have not been more than rose-water which we get sprinkled over us in marriage houses; and such rains, while not enough to enable the plant to yield paddy for the ryot, were unfortunately enough to keep the plants alive. And that was enough for the Revenue authorities to report that the crop was successful. I would therefore make special request to the Land Revenue Commissioner to treat these lands as actual karivu and to recommend remission of at least 75 per cent of the dues. I do not think there is any necessity for me to dilate on the question any more since the Government themselves seem to have realised the difficulty of the people in this matter. Sachivottaman, during his tour to South Travancore, at last, said that the Government have realised the difficulties of the South Travancore ryots. Hitherto Sir, we, the people of Vilavankod, Kalkulam and Neyyattinkara, have been putting up a joint fight along with the people of Nanjinad; now the people of Nanjinad say "we have nothing to do with the people of Kalkulam, Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara." I would appeal to Government to order that the Minor IrrigationDivision should concentrate its attention on the Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod taluks and should spend the major portion of the present allotment for the benefit of these taluks. I include Neyyattinkara because a diversion from Triparappu would take the water, through various small diversion channels from the ridge at Triparappu, to Karakunnam and other places. From the ridge at Triparappu, there are various ridges branching away like ribs and vertibra. If the people find water at the top, of their own accord they would take it along small channels. If necessary, we are prepared to contribute 25 per cent of the cost of such a scheme, provided we are

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not asked to pay any water cess. If that is done, there would be no necessity in future years to grant any remission.

Sir, I have collected a lot of material. Although a layman, I am now confident that I can defeat any Engineer so far as water supply for South Travancore is concerned; because I have studied the papers and I know all details. It is open for any engineer, including Mr. Truscott, to test my technical knowledge.

With these words I place the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : I support this adjournment motion. In so doing, if I refer to the scarcity of water in Muttam part of which belongs to the Kalkulam taluk, I would be serving a double purpose, because, I will be supporting this motion and also speaking on the resolution which I have to move on Monday, the 13th February 1939. I shall now confine my attention to scarcity of water in Muttam.

Sir, in no other place in South Travancore is scarcity of water so keenly felt as in Muttam. This question of supply of drinking water to Muttam has been engaging the attention of the Travancore Government for the last 25 years; but nothing substantial has been done yet. Sir, our Dewans although generally profuse in their promises, are slow in the fulfilment of their promises. So far as I know, there have been two schemes for the supply of water to Muttam. One is the Kuttikad channel scheme or the Muttam scheme. According to this scheme water can be supplied not only to Muttam but also to its suburbs. This scheme was prepared by one of our former able Executive Engineers, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar. I hear that the scheme has almost been abandoned; I do not know why. I would like to hear from the learned Chief Engineer whether the scheme is feasible, if so, its cost and other details.

The other scheme is the Kannamangalam Odai or Kannamangalam tank scheme. That tank or Odai is a mile or two away from Muttam and very near the Friday Market. The source of water is situated in such a place that even during the dry months of the year there will be enough of water. These are the two schemes.

In regard to both these schemes, the question is whether to take the water by pipe line or by open channels. I would like to have from the Chief Engineer the relative merits and demerits of these two methods of taking the water. I am told that the Kannamangalam scheme can not only supply drinking water to Muttam but can also irrigate about 150 or 200 acres of land. I would like to have details of the scheme from the Chief Engineer.

Interpellations Nos. 33 and 34 of mine deals with the scheme suggested by me in this connection. Water is an essential requisite for the support of plant and animal life. From these places water could be diverted for irrigation purposes. It is the paramount duty of the Government to see that good water is supplied to all places. The Madras Government has realised that. I also read in the newspaper recently that the Madras Government have a scheme for the supply of water with 10 or 15 years' time and they

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say that within that period they hope to supply water to all the villages in the Madras Presidency. If such a plan is possible in Madras, it will be much more easily possible in Travancore for Travancore is smaller in area. It is only a little bigger than the Tinnevelly District. The Plan is good. But there must be willingness on the part of the Government. Where there is a will, there is a way is the saying known to all.

Two days ago when the report of the Public Accounts Committee was under consideration, I moved a resolution that it is not desirable to make much savings under Public Works. In some years, amounts provided under important works lapse. Such a state of affairs should not occur. Works done by the P. W. D. are very useful to the people. They are of lasting benefit to the people. Therefore, it is not desirable to make any savings under the items 'Capital Works' and "Reproductive Works." The Financial Secretary explained the other day that some savings happened owing to certain extraordinary circumstances which were beyond the control of Government. He made a new discovery as it were the other day. Is that a proper excuse? No. With these words I support the resolution before the House.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: In making a few observations in regard to this motion, I may assure the honourable members that I have not got any big scheme as my friend, the mover, Mr. Kesava Pillai has and that too in such abundance in both of his pockets. I can only say that the Irrigation authorities have got a duty to think ahead and devise ways and means to provide for contingencies of such unprecedented drought as we have been experiencing for the last few years.

In the course of this debate the mover, Mr. Kesava Pillai and his seconder introduced several irrigation schemes both investigated already and left not being feasible and profitable and others not investigated but also introduced topics of highly controversial character. He said that Nanjinad ryots dispute the right over the water collected in Kodayar Reservoir by ryots other than Nanjinad ryots of South Travancore for purposes of irrigation. In the first place, let me remind my friend Mr. Kesava Pillai that after the completion of the Kodayar Scheme, almost all the tanks, in Nanjinad under the commanded area were auctioned away for fabulous amounts and credited to Government accounts, and thus the ryots of Nanjinad were rendered to depend only on Kodayar water, these former tanks having been taken from their hands. Mr. Kesava Pillai was rather militant out of sheer ignorance of the history of Nanjinad ryots in the Pre-Project days. He laid stress on the necessity of supplying good drinking water to people in his constituency of two taluks in South Travancore and I think that I am justified in referring to such needs of my taluks namely Thovala and Agasteeswaram. Water supply for agricultural and drinking purposes is absolutely necessary in some parts of my constituency. I am not unaware of the fact that the Government have taken up the investigation of water supply in the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara and I understand that the investigation report is under the anxious consideration of the Government. Mr. Kesava Pillai said that the report contained an estimate of over 2 lakhs for carrying out works to supply

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good drinking water. In this connection I may say that it is but fair that both the Investigation Division Officer and the Supervisor concerned did very good work and traversed the whole area and exhibited good physical ability in walking over all the places to find out suitable places for digging wells, connecting water channels, etc.,. What became of their report? I do not know. When asked, the Government say that the investigation has been made and it is being considered by Government. They give a graphic description of the proposed schemes and tempt us to envisage a millennium before us. This kind of reply from Government reminds me of the remark made by a responsible head of a Missionary Institution in South Travancore, regarding Rural reconstruction activities of the Demonstration Centre at Marthandam in South Travancore. He remarked, reviewing their activities, that their phrase Rural Reconstruction Demonstration Centre is a dreadful phrase thereby condemning the ability of their much-talked-of scheme. In other words, he hinted that there is much of saying and loud talk but nothing doing. Exactly the same way is with the Government who talk much in trotting out and parading big schemes but nothing tangible has been done to our expectations of their investigated schemes. It is high time that the Government realise the acute situation in which the people are put to. Some solution has got to be carried out before it is too late. I really appreciate the wonderful capacity of the Division and Section Officers who were engaged in the investigation in respect of supply of good drinking water. Even if the scheme costs two lakhs of rupees, as Mr. Kesava Pillai said, when once the Government are satisfied with the utility of the scheme, they should never hesitate to sanction such a proposal and get it carried out. During the debate of the budget for 1112, I heard the Dewan President's announcement that the Government were prepared to sanction amounts without even estimates previously prepared and approved and that Government have set apart a sum of Rs. 5,000 for restoring tanks. But in actual experience nothing was spent on the ground that Government sanction was not obtained beforehand. In other words, it reminds me of the old saying 'one can lead a horse to the river but twenty cannot make it drink'. However much the Government may think well of the people, the Executive officers make it ineffective. That means they require a good deal of driving in carrying out irrigation or supply of water schemes.

One word by way of reply to Mr. Kesava Pillai's contention that the ryots of Nanjinad have no better claim over the matter in the Kodayar Reservoir than the ryots of Vilavankod. If he wants to claim it for his people I have no objection but only this suggestion to make. I make a sporting offer to him to take the reservoir exclusively for himself and his people, on condition that their old tanks are restored back to Nanjinad ryots and their present excessive and exhorbitant rate of tax for their lands is borne by ryots of his taluks. I am only

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glad to make this sporting offer. Let his people take the Pachipara Reservoir and all its water with its today's reading 3 ft. of water. Let him not mistake things. The ryots of Nanjinad will be glad if he can then come to their rescue.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: On a point of order. May I know whether the member is in order in referring to the needs of Nanjinad when the motion relates to supply of water for Kalkulam and Vilavankod for agricultural and drinking purposes. If that is allowed I too may be allowed to say something of my constituency also.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Sivathanu Pillai will please elucidate the substance contained in that point of order.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: No, Sir. I want a ruling on the point of order.

PRESIDENT: Let me hear what Mr. Sivathanu Pillai has to say on the point.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: I do not find any point in it.

PRESIDENT: The debate as far as possible, should be within the four corners of the resolution.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: So then, Sir, developing by way of argument, my point is this. Water is very essential both for drinking and agricultural purposes. It is common to all the taluks of South Travancore, which of course, includes, fortunately or unfortunately, Tovala and Agastiswaram as well, but with this difference. We, Nanjinad ryots, are not believers in a game of bluff. We believe in loyalty and refuse to believe in blackmail. We are not concerned, as Mr. Kesava Pillai, whether State Congress flourishes or is put down. Our caravan will move on, as usual, believing in the truth and justice of our cause. Places like Aramboly require good water for drinking purposes just like Kalkulam. Therefore, I am of opinion that a comprehensive scheme should be thought of in the matter of supply of water.

Of course, there are many schemes mentioned by Mr. Kesava Pillai and Mr. Nadar. A good number of schemes have already been examined by Government by their experts appointed by them from time to time. I request Government to take any scheme they please for purposes of execution. It is my request to the Chief Engineer also to sympathise with my taluks in the matter of procuring good drinking water. Along with this my suggestion is that the Department may think of restoring the tanks for purposes of storing water for agricultural purposes. It is a matter for the consideration of Government whether it is not desirable for Government to draw up a scheme whereby the supply of water for drinking purposes to all parts of the State may be spread over for a period of 10 or 15 years and carried out systematically and that portion by portion every year.

The present Irrigation Division with its head office at Quilon is doing useful work. There is also an Irrigation Committee formed recently in South Travancore. Doubts have arisen with regard to the extent of jurisdiction of the latter, the irrigation Committee of South Travancore. It has been contended that the taluk of Vilavankod and

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a portion of Neyyat inkara should be within the purview of this Committee, while as a matter of fact, the Irrigation Division at Quilon covers this portion as well. The Government may settle the doubt and confirm that these portions form part of the Irrigation Division at Quilon. With these words I am at one with the spirit underlying the motion.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: In supporting the motion I have not much to add to what had already been said by the previous speakers. Though the resolution speaks of scarcity of water for two purposes, it should not be understood that there is sufficient water for other purposes such as bathing etc, for men and cattle. I would have been happier if the motion was generally worded so as to be applicable for all localities in need. I do not wish to have a fight between Nanjinad and other parts of South Travancore, in matters such as this. I am against the introduction of Talukism here.

Myself and my friend Mr. Kesava Pillai representing the driest constituency, which has further gone dry during the course of the last 4 years on account of the failure of seasonal rains, are now constrained to raise the cry of thirst and offer our prayers for quenching the same, which is an elementary necessity of all living beings. We trust that it would be accepted in all religious sympathy, as the cry is really a pathetic one. The matter is so urgent and pressing that no time could be lost in affording us the relief. For the present I shall confine myself to the question of drinking water. Of course, we appreciate sympathy shown by the Government in the matter. But that is not sufficient and that cannot satisfy us under the present circumstances. The budget of 1113 provided for the investigation of tube wells. Similarly there has been investigation regarding tank restoration. Yet I think that no actual execution of any work has begun till now. Last year's budget provided for the improvements of some tanks. But the P. W. D. allowed those amounts to lapse without doing the budgetted works. So the demand was repeated in this year's budget as if it is a new work. I fear the same thing might happen again, for, till now no tank has been improved. I have therefore to accuse the Engineering Department of latches Again unless the works investigated are done then and there there is no use in investigation and the money spent for it is a mere waste For in the course of two or three years, circumstances may change and therefore a fresh investigation would be required. In this way we could go on investigating without executing any work. For this state of affairs I would put the blame on the Chief Engineer.

I am told that investigation reports are inordinately delayed without being approved or sanctioned. Sometimes the reports are said to be travelling to and from the Chief Engineer's office to that of his subordinates for petty matters. It may be engineering modesty but not conducive to public good.

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Mr. C. Jebamony Nadar.]

Now what is the real situation in the two taluks? To show what it is I would refer to an answer to one of my questions regarding public wells. Panikulam, with an area of 2257 acres has one well. Kunnathur with an area of 2384 acres has one well. Keezhkulam having an extent of 2583 acres has no public well. That is the position with every other pakuthy in the two taluks. In the town of Eraniel it has been found on investigation that there is not a single private well containing good water Every well is brackish even if it is not dry. It has been found as a fact that the health of the people has been seriously affected by various diseases, contagious and infectious. The people here require prompt help.

Though the report of the special investigating officer has not been made available to the public, I presume that he has fixed lowlands and valleys as the proposed well sites. This has its advantages as well as disadvantages. If the site is far away from a village there would be great inconvenience if we consider the custom of females going out for drawing water. The question of tube wells or some such device must therefore take the place of sunk wells in certain localities.

I understand that in Karingal market the Government have sunk a well 130 feet deep. No water is available. The well is as the neighbour-hood. It is left like that. When the Government spend money they should avoid such difficulties and the responsibility rests with the Chief Engineer.

Apart from the wells proposed by the special officers there are yet others recommended by the sanitary department. The whole cost may come to about a lakh and a half rupees. Government must somehow or other find the money. As it is a case of drinking water it must have priority over every other expenditure. So my submission is that the Government must forthwith dig all the wells so far recommended by the special officer and Sanitary Department. Apart from allotting the amount the Government must also issue strict instructions to the Chief Engineer to carry out the works at once. I make this appeal on behalf of people who are already starving due to failure of crops for four consecutive years, apart from the keen economic depression to which they have been subjected. Honourable members would realise our water difficulty if I mention one circumstance. That is this. During Mandacadu festival which comes of during every Kumbhom the place has to look upon Pachipara reservoir 40 miles away. With these words I commend the motion to the unanimous acceptance of this Honourable House.

MR. D. FRANCIS (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, இந்தப் பிரேமயத்தை நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். நாஞ்சநாட்டில் எந்தக் காரியத்தையும் சாதித்துக் கொள்ளலாம். ஆனால் குடிநீரம் இல்லாமல் இருக்கவே முடியாது. இந்தத் தண்ணீர் கஷ்டம் தென் திருவிதாங்கூரில் மோசமாகயிருக்கிறது. நாகர்கோயில் பட்டணத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால்— அங்கேயும் சில கிராமங்களிலுள்ள கிணறுகளில் தண்ணீர் இல்லாமல், ஜனங்கள் அடுத்த கிராமத்திலுள்ள கிணறுகளுக்குச் சென்று

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தண்ணீர் கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். சில சுற்று கிராமங்களில் குடிஜலமில் லாமல், அரைமைல் ஒருமைல்தூரம் நடந்து, சமயலுக்கும், குடிக்கவும், குளிக்கவும் ஜலம் கொண்டுவரப்படுகிறது. கன்னுகாலிகளுக்குக் கூட வைக்கோல் போட்டு தண்ணீர்கொடுக்க ஜலம் இல்லை. அதனல் அனே கம்ஆடுமாடுகள் செத்துப்போய்விட்டன. நான் ஒருவிடை என்றஒன்று இரண்டுகிராமங்களுக்குச் சென்றிருந்தேன். ஒரு ஆடோ, மாடோ என் கண்களில் தென்படவில்லை. விசாரித்ததில், ஜலமில்லாமல் கால் நடைகள் சாவதைவிட விற்பது நல்லது என்று விற்று விட்டோம் என்று சொன்னர்கள். இப்படிப்பட்டக் கஷ்டங்களை ஏழை ஜனங்கள் அனுபவித்து வருகிறார்கள். வயல்களுக்குத் தண்ணீர்பாயச்சல் அ தேகம் குளங்கள் இருந்தன. அவைகளையும் கவர்மெண்டார் விற்று வி ட்டார்கள் முட்டம்கால் வெட்டும்படியாக ஒரு ஸ்கீம் தயாராக்கப்ப ட்டு, அதற்கு எஸ்டிமேட்டும் தயாராயிற்று. அதைப்பற்றி இது வரை ஒருநடவடிக்கையும் எடுக்கப்படவில்லை. இதுபோல் முட்டம் ஊருக்கு தண்ணீர்சப்ளை செய்ய குழாய்க்கிணறு ஸ்கீம் ஒன்று தயா ராக்கப்பட்டது. அதுவும் என்னவாயிற்று என்று தெரியாது. உ த்தேசம் 20 வருஷங்களுக்கு முன் எஸ்டிமேட்டு தயாராக்கின முட்டம் கால் ஏன்வெட்டப்படவில்லை என்று தெரியவில்லை. எவ்வளவோ ஆவ சியம் என்று கருதப்பட்ட பட்டணம் கால் இன்னம் வெட்டப்படவி ல்லை. சில வருஷங்களுக்கு முன் தண்ணீர் இல்லாமலிருந்து மிகவும் ஆவசியமான 30 கிணறுகளை தணிக்கும் படியாக கவர்மெண்டுக்கு எ ழுதியிருந்தேன். அப்போதிருந்து Water Works Engineer. மி. பாலகிரு ஷ்ண ராவு அவர்களுக்கு அந்தக் கிணறுகளை தணிக்கும்படி கவர்மெ ண்டார் உத்தரவு கொடுத்தார்கள். அவர் ஒரு ஸ்பெஷல் ஆபிஸரை ஸூப்பர்வைசராக நியமித்து அன்வேஷணமும் நடந்தது. பின்பு எ ன்னநடந்தது என்பது இதுவரையும் தெரியவில்லை. முட்டம் முத லான இடங்களில் ஜனங்கள் குளிக்கிற வழக்கம் கிடையாது. இத னல் தொத்து வியாதிகள்வரும் போது முதலாவது அந்த ஊர்களை சந் தித்து, நூற்றுக்கணக்கான ஜனங்களைகொன்று விடுகின்றன, இப்போ து சொன்ன சங்கதிகளெல்லாம் சரிப்படுத்துவதற்கு பெருந்தொகை யான பணம் ஆவசியந்தான். அதனல் என்ன செய்கிறது ஜனங்கள் ஜலக்கஷ்டத்தினல் வியாதிபிடித்து இறக்கிறார்கள். இதைப்பார்த்தா வது பெருந்தொகை சிலவு செய்து ஜனங்களை ரக்ஷிக்கவேண்டியது சர் க்கார் கடமை, அதனல் குடிஜலத்துக்கு வேண்டிய சௌகரியங்களை எல்லாம் செய்து கொடுக்கக் கேட்டுக் கொண்டு இந்தப்பிரேயத்தை பலமாய் அனுகூலிக்கிறேன்,

MR. M. KESAVA PANIKAR : Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this motion. Scarcity of water is keenly felt in the taluk of Neyyattinkara. Nellikakuzhi, Kanjiramculam Parasalai, Nellimudu, Kidarakuzhi and the surrounding places can be sited as examples. There is no sufficient water in Neyyar river. Hence there is failure of crops in most parts of the Taluk. True it is that the Government have been pleased to make a reduction of tax to the extent of 5 lakhs of rupees this year. But this is not sufficient for the purpose.

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As regards the Irrigation committee, I am constrained to observe that its work is not satisfactory. I would wish to draw the attention of the Government to see the grievance redressed as early as possible.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: Sir, the Government have every sympathy with the ryots in the difficulties they have been experiencing in the matter of water supply for irrigation and domestic purposes in South Travancore, and have shown their interests in a practical manner. I might say that it has been stated that the Kodayar reservoir has not spilled for many years past. This is incorrect as to my own knowledge. It has spilled at least twice in the last few years; but it is a fact that lately owing to the scarcity of rain, Kodayar water has been correspondingly scarce and to-day there is only now about 3 ft. of water over the sill. With regard to the practical interest of Government I have referred to, I would say that about 15 months ago the Government sanctioned a special staff for the investigation of the construction of small storage reservoirs to supplement the Kodayar flow and a large number of tank restoration works have been investigated and a number have been taken up and improved. We have altogether investigated up to date about 126 tanks and estimates for the improvements of 48 have been sanctioned by Government and the estimates for 20 more are under scrutiny in the Chief Engineer's Office and a further 40 estimates are under preparation in the Division Office. There are also further tanks on which investigations have been completed. We have had allotted to us Rs. 25,000 for the investigation and repairs of tanks for this year but altogether I have estimates which will run into about one and a half lakhs of rupees and I propose asking Government for further funds for continuing the restoration of tanks.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: May I know whether this twenty five thousand include Vilavankod also?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: I cannot say whether these are situated in Vilavankod as I have treated the whole as one scheme. Referring to Mr. Kesava Pillai's remarks regarding the Kodayar papers and Mr. Horsley's schemes I have spent a considerable amount of time in reading the Kodayar papers and also in scutinising the schemes suggested by Mr. Horsley. Some of these schemes have proved on close investigation uneconomical both in cost and quantity of water; but others have still to be investigated. In the meantime we are doing as much as we can towards restoring the tanks. There has been a suggestion of continuing the Left Bank Channel. I do not think we should extend this channel until we have a reservoir or reservoirs to augment Kodayar. At present we are confining ourselves for restoration of tanks.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know the result of the investigation of the tanks?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: The estimates are being prepared and submitted to Government and work is carried out as soon as possible

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after sanction and funds have been allotted; but we have only a few months in the year when we can do work on the tanks as during the remainder of the year the tanks contain water.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: What was the nature of the recommendation in regard to the tanks? Whether to repair them or.....

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: All tanks which are not entirely silted up and could be restored to give useful supply of water are as far as possible being investigated.

Mr. Kesava Pillai spoke of the Perinjani reservoir. This reservoir, I believe, would be a very useful auxiliary supply to Kodayar if investigations prove that it is economically sound. Investigations were, I know, made at one time and an amount of Rs. 30,000 was expended on doing so; but the result I cannot trace out in the Kodayar papers nor can I find any signs of investigations at the site and perhaps Mr. Kesava Pillai may be able to assist me in that direction. It has been said that the disaforestation of the Kodayar catchment has interfered with the rainfall. This is an exploded theory. Cutting of trees have no actual bearing on the rainfall' but it has considerable bearing on the run of and conservation of rain and also of course protection against erosion.

Regarding the supply of drinking water. This has been engaging the serious consideration of Government for some years past and the Water Works Engineer carried out some trial boring investigation and has sent up recommendations to Government for some new wells. The cost of these schemes will be about Rs. 1,40,000. This, of course, will take some time to work out.

Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar said nothing has been done as regards Muttam. This is incorrect. Borings have been made in wells in Muttam but I am afraid, that this has proved a failure.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I inform the member that water in all the wells there is brackish?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: Not all the wells. I have tasted water there which was certainly not brackish.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I challenge the statement.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: It is a matter of personal experience. The next suggestion was to extend the Muttam branch irrigation channel from its tail end up to Muttam tank and an investigation was conducted by the Chief Engineer at the time and he suggested a scheme for carrying water by pipes and also suggested that a well could be located not far south of Muttam. Both these schemes were found on investigation to be prohibitive in cost. There was another suggestion regarding the feasibility of diverting the Anadanar Odai. This scheme on detailed investigation was found impracticable.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know why?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: There is more than one reason. The length of the proposed channel from the regulator to the tank in the Muttam village is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles and not $1\frac{1}{2}$ as stated by the honourable member. During the irrigation season the Odai carries water, but in the dry season the Odai dries up.

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MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether this difficulty cannot be removed by linking the two sides of the river with burnt bricks?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: I am afraid the honourable member did not realise my point which was that the Odai which received this water from the channels on either side dries up in the hot weather. There is also a proposal for constructing an underground infiltration gallery and collecting well and carrying water from this gallery to a high level balancing cistern. This scheme and also another scheme for deep well boring in some of the villages higher up at Muttam which has been suggested by the Engineers who sunk the wells for us at Alleppey, Thottapally and 2 other places along the coast appear at present feasible. This latter scheme is under scrutiny by the Division Officer and I propose to personally investigate both these schemes at the first opportunity and submit concrete proposals to Government. I feel sure that the hon'ble Member who moved the adjournment motion will agree that the Government are fully alive to the needs of water supply in South Travancore and that he will see that there is no necessity for pressing this motion to a division. In the meantime I may say, that the P. W. D. is carrying water by lorry from Friday Market to Muttam doing several trips daily and that this will be continued until the wells again supply water.

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Sir, I fully appreciate the sentiment with which the honourable member, the mover of the adjournment motion, has spoken about the scarcity of water in South Travancore. It is true that for the last four years there has been some scarcity of water, particularly in Kalkulam and Vilavankod. The average rainfall at the end of 1108 was 68 inches whereas at the end of 1113 it was only 55 inches. In Vilavankod and Kalkulam taluks till the end of 1108 the rainfall was 73 inches and till the end of last year it was only 64 inches. This is a reading of the meteorological conditions. In spite of these difficulties, the Public Health Department has been trying its best to ensure the supply of good drinking water to the inhabitants of South Travancore. There are about 78 wells maintained by the Department in Kalkulam and 23 wells in Vilavankod taluk. On hearing about the scarcity of water, immediate orders were issued to the subordinates of the Department to keep the wells in proper condition and facilitate the supply of water, deepen the wells and also to take up as many wells for immediate construction as funds are available. It has to be remembered, Sir, that not only Travancore is suffering from scarcity of water. For the last two years there has been universal shortage of water throughout the Presidency. The supply is now facing a fall in the Madras City.

Reports were also received from several places of North and Central Travancore regarding shortage of water from places where there were no complaints in this respect before.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: വടക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ എവിടെയെല്ലാമാണ് ജലദൌർലഭ്യമുള്ളത്?

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DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : പെരുമ്പാവൂർ, മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, കോട്ടയം, തിരുവല്ലായിലെ കിഴക്കുഭാഗത്തുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ, ചെങ്ങന്നൂർ, ചേർത്തല, കൊട്ടാരക്കര, കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളാണ്.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: മുനമ്പം, വടക്കൻപറവൂർ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും ശുദ്ധജലം കിട്ടാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളല്ലേ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : അതെ.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN: മുനമ്പം പറവൂർ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ ജലദൌർലഭ്യത്തിനും തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ജലദൌർലഭ്യത്തിനും തമ്മിൽ വല്ല വ്യത്യാസവുമുണ്ടോ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ലെല്ലാം ഉപ്പുവെള്ളമായിരിക്കും.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN: പറവൂർ, വടക്കേക്കര മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഉപ്പുവെള്ളമല്ലേ ഉള്ളൂ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : അതെ.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : ഉപ്പുവെള്ളംപോലുമില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളും പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിലില്ലേ?

PRESIDENT : Order, Order. Now Mr. Gopala Pillai may or may not yield his place.

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Sir, the Public Health Department in consultation with the Government is doing everything possible to mitigate the conditions in the places where there is scarcity of water especially in South Travancore. They have already taken measures in this direction and if it is not sufficient, additional wells will be sunk in such places where the scarcity is more keenly felt and thus steps will be taken to ensure the supply of good drinking water.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: May I know whether Government would do anything immediately to relieve the suffering of the people of Vilavankod and Kalkulam where water scarcity is prevalent everywhere?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : In all places from where complaints were received, immediate measures were taken to supply water to the public. For instance, in Muttom, water is being distributed by lorries four or five times in a day. I hope the Honourable Member would withdraw the adjournment motion in the face of the fact that all that is possible is being done to alleviate the distress of the people, due to scarcity of water.

MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, I have not much to add to what the Chief Engineer and the Director of Public Health have stated. But there are two points referred to by the Honourable member Mr. Kesava

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Pillai which require elucidation. One is supply of water for Irrigational purposes and the other is the remission of tax on Tharisu lands. As far as Irrigation Rules are concerned I may inform the House that Irrigation works are divided into two kinds, Major Irrigation works *i. e.*, works which will benefit more than 200 acres of land and Minor irrigation works, which will benefit less than 200 acres. For Major Irrigation works the ryots benefitted have to pay a cess on land for the supply of water. For Minor Irrigation works, half the cost of work should be borne by the ryots whose lands are benefitted by the work. The honourable member said that they will pay 25% but rules require 50%.

Regarding the remission of Tharisu lands I had already submitted that I had called for lists of Tharisu lands from the Division Peishkars and as soon as they are received I shall take up the question with Government and see whether anything possible can be done. I may also say that I intend to go round the pakuthies in the constituency of of Mr. Kesava Pillai and see for myself the conditions there. I am sure that Mr. Kesava Pillai will help me in this. With these words I request the honourable member to withdraw his adjournment motion.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Sir, honourable members from either side of the house have placed before this Assembly vivid pictures of the conditions prevalent in South Travancore. The Chief Engineer's reply was not very clear, not through any fault of his but due to the echo prevailing here in this Hall. What I request is to give me a kind hearing. Very many representations were sent to Government and they were forwarded to the Irrigation Division Officer. That Officer is not competent to handle this. The previous Division Officer of Nagercoil tried to raise the Chittar water to a higher level to take water to the Kothayar Reservoir. The plot chosen by him was 2 miles away from the reservoir and this is a technical blunder. The catchment area of the reservoir instead of being 9 sq. miles it is only half a sq. mile. If the Wannan Para Dam or a site chosen in Chittar No. 1 near Charanaloor was selected it would have been a great advantage to the ryots as well as to Government.

As regards the kind words given by the Land Revenue Commissioner assuring me that something tangible will be done in alleviating the distress of my constituency, I can only thank him and hope that he will be trying his best to take some immediate measures in that direction.

The reply from the Public Health Director was quite unsatisfactory and the Department should be ashamed to tell the House that because there is water being supplied to the people by lorries at Muttom no other permanent measures need be adopted. Health Department should be alive to the needs of the suffering human beings particularly with regard to the supply of good drinking water. But I know Sir, that they were doing great services in that area during the prevalence of epidemics. And now also it is their duty to tell Government

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[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

plainly that all possible steps should be taken to save the dying humanity in the Southern Travancore. And if Government are not going to respond, Sir, things may come to such a crisis that disaffection among the people may be a general rule. Sir, I have nothing to fear to place the facts in this Assembly as they are. I hope that temporary arrangements will be made for the immediate supply of water for those parts which are keenly affected especially in Vilavankod and Kalkulam taluks.

From one corner of this Chamber I was surprised to hear that there are disloyal people in other taluks except Nanjinad. But History tells us——

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, I only said that we are not players in a game of bluff, but we only deal in truth.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: And I submit that if my cry is unheeded by Government I will have no other alterative to resign my seat and try to serve my constituency in some other capacity. I hope that Government would order the construction of a channel from Tiparappu to irrigate the old lands in the pakuthies up to Kollamcode and water of Neyyur also could supplement this by such similar diversion at Aruvipuram or Aruvikara. I also request that T. C. ode extension could be made to irrigate Nattalam Killiyoor and Keezkulam pakuthies by extending the channel at Kaviyallur. But with these words Sir, I withdraw the motion expecting a favourable response from the Government.

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn to meet again at 11'o clock on Monday.

The House adjourned at 4-28 P. M.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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